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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Sixth meeting

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Item 16 of the provisional agenda\*

#### **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES OF WORK ON THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS, MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The present note has been prepared to assist the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting in its consideration of item 16 of the provisional agenda, on progress made on the implementation of decision V/2, V/3, V/5 and V/23, respectively, progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems; progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity; on agricultural biodiversity: review of phase I of the programme of work and adoption of a multi-year work programme; and consideration of options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid grassland and savannah ecosystems. The note covers the activities implemented in the period between the adoption of the decisions at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2000 and January 2001.

2. The Conference of the Parties may wish to:

(a) Assess the progress made in the implementation of the work programmes and provide additional guidance to the Executive Secretary, as needed, in the further implementation of the work programmes; and

(b) Consider for adoption recommendations VI/2, VI/3, VII/3, VII/7 and VII/8 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) contained in the reports of its sixth and seventh meetings (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3 and 4).

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Rev.1/Corr.1.

## II. BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS

3. The present progress report has been prepared to complement the report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems prepared for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA, held in March 2001 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/5). It is also intended to highlight the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in response to SBSTTA recommendation VI/3, adopted at its sixth meeting, on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. A more comprehensive report on the programme of work will be submitted to SBSTTA prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties as part of the background documentation to be prepared for the review and refinement of that programme of work.

4. The structure of this progress report follows that of the programme of work in annex I to decision IV/4, by which it was adopted. Two additional headings—sections G and H—are included to cover activities deriving from decision V/2 of the Conference of the Parties.

### A. *Assessment of the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use*

#### 1. *General/Cooperation with other bodies*

##### (a) *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat*

5. In its recommendation VI/3, SBSTTA noted the successful cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention and the need for the third joint work plan between the two conventions. It further requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the second joint work plan between the two conventions, including a draft third joint work plan covering suggestions on future activities for consideration by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In response to this recommendation, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau, has prepared an information document for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties containing a progress report on the implementation of the second joint work plan and the proposed draft third joint work plan.

6. The Executive Secretary was represented at the tenth meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention, held in June 2001 in Gland, Switzerland, to review and finalize documentation for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

##### (b) *The River Basin Initiative*

7. The River Basin Initiative (RBI) is a mechanism to promote integrated management of biodiversity in wetlands and river basins worldwide. It has been developed jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Bureau in the framework of the joint work plan between the two conventions. In May 2001, the Initiative organized a workshop that brought together representatives from international organizations and countries to advance the design of the initiative and review linkages to other activities.

8. A “needs and contributions assessment” was conducted through a questionnaire sent to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention in mid-March 2001. A total

of 151 responses to the questionnaire were received from a total of 87 countries, primarily from national focal points. The Initiative entered its initial operation phase (2001-2003) in September 2001 with the following activities:

- (a) Establishment of a RBI Net Internet discussion group of 250 members from 80 countries;
- (b) Initial establishment of an internet portal to facilitate easy information exchange between countries;
- (c) Discussions with a range of countries about initial awareness or exchange activities at country or basin level;
- (d) Collation and distribution of manuals and guidelines; and
- (e) Operation of an online workshop on the Virtual Water Forum as a contribution to the preparation of the third World Water Forum.

9. In response to paragraph 8(c) of the programme of work on inland water biodiversity, which calls for the compilation of case-studies on the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems, the Executive Secretary is compiling, through the RBI, case-studies of watershed, catchment and river basin management experiences and best practices.

10. A detailed report is being prepared on progress made in the Initiative and the analysis of the above-mentioned needs and contributions assessment.

(c) *Administrative Committee on Coordination of the United Nations/Subcommittee on Water Resources*

11. As a member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources (SWR) of the Administrative Committee on Coordination of the United Nations (ACC), the Convention Secretariat contributed to the Rio+10 process on chapter 18 of Agenda 21 and is involved in the process of preparation of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and the World Water Development Report (WWDR). The WWAP is expected to assist Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity by providing a basis for the formulation of policies for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems. The Secretariat participated in the synthesis meeting of the WWDR and ACC/SWR, which was held in April 2001. All ACC members supported the structure proposed by WWAP for the draft Rio+10 report (policy review) presented at the International Conference on Freshwater in Bonn, and the global review, the final policy issues and an Africa focus which will be presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in August/September 2002. The participants agreed on the structure of the WWDR and the methodology for assessment. The assessment tools include (i) specific water indicators to relate water resources and their socio-economic aspects; and (b) indices to monitor water-related social and environmental performance. The report is scheduled for submission to the third World Water Forum, in March 2003.

(d) *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

12. The Convention Secretariat and the Fisheries Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are exploring areas for possible joint activities under the main themes of sustainable fisheries; sustainable aquaculture; traditional knowledge; and gene banks for fish.

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(e) *Wetlands International*

13. A memorandum of understanding with the International Coordination Unit of Wetlands International was signed in September 2000 ([http://www.ramsar.org/key\\_cbd\\_mou\\_wetlands\\_intl.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/key_cbd_mou_wetlands_intl.htm)). The memorandum of understanding facilitates further development of collaborative programmes on conservation of wetlands, their associated biodiversity and their wise use. It contains four articles: (i) General cooperation and focal points, (ii) contribution from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, (iii) contribution from Wetlands International, and (iv) general points. The Secretariat further accepted, in the framework of the memorandum of understanding and co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, the invitation of Wetlands International to be a member of the Global Steering Group of the programme between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) of the Government of the Netherlands and Wetlands International. <sup>1/</sup> Other members of the Global Steering Group include the Ramsar Bureau, IUCN-Water and wetlands programme, WWF International, and BirdLife International. DGIS funds will be used globally, prioritized according to country and regional needs assessment, and will support actions which enable countries to fulfill their obligations under relevant international conventions, agreements and work plans, including, *inter alia*, the Ramsar/Convention on Biological Diversity joint work plan and the River Basin Initiative.

(f) *Third World Water Forum*

14. The Secretariat, jointly with the Ramsar Bureau, is involved in the organization of the third World Water Forum <sup>2/</sup> within the framework of the RBI. The RBI will organize one or more discussion sessions on the Virtual Water Forum on integrated management of biodiversity, wetlands and river basins. More information is contained in a detailed progress report on RBI, which is expected to be presented to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an information document.

(g) *Global International Waters Assessment*

15. The Secretariat participated in the General Assembly of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) in October 2001 (<http://www.giwa.net/index.phtml>). Experiences gained in the implementation of the scaling and scoping stages of GIWA, and the development and implementation of the final stages of the GIWA methodology and format for reports from GIWA sub-regional assessment were among the main themes of discussions. A memorandum of cooperation between the Global International Water Assessment and the CBD Secretariat is being finalized. The draft MoC is focused on assessments in marine and coastal and inland waters ecosystems and includes integration of biological diversity considerations into the methodology protocols of the GIWA, and the sharing of information on ecosystem evaluation and assessment.

2. *Work plan of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

16. In paragraph 8 (a) of the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to develop an improved picture of inland water biological diversity, its uses and its threats, around the world. The Executive Secretary is liaising with the World Resources Institute (WRI) for the preparation of documentation on the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting. The documents will be used for the refinement and

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<sup>1/</sup> See [http://www.wetlands.agro.nl/wetlands\\_icu/News/DGISnews.htm](http://www.wetlands.agro.nl/wetlands_icu/News/DGISnews.htm).

<sup>2/</sup> See <http://www.worldwaterforum.org/>.

elaboration of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (see section G below).

17. In response to paragraph 8(b) programme of work and SBSTTA recommendation VI/5 related to the development of regional guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland water biological diversity in different types of inland water ecosystems, the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention is implementing the project brief on the development of rapid assessment methods for biological diversity of inland water ecosystems contained in annex II to his progress report on ongoing assessment processes prepared for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/3). As a first step, the Executive Secretary is compiling information on existing assessment methods for evaluation and assessment of inland water ecosystems and has requested assistance of Conservation International for preparation of a paper containing a list of existing assessment methods and guidelines for application of these methods. It is expected that a number of outputs stated in the brief will be prepared in time for the eighth meeting of SBSTTA.

***B. Provision of scientific advice and further guidance to assist in the national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention (as pertaining to inland water ecosystems)***

18. In paragraph 12 of the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to work closely with the Ramsar Bureau and further directed SBSTTA to work jointly with the Scientific, Technical Review Panel of the Convention on Wetlands to achieve desirable convergence between the approaches of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on criteria and classification of inland water ecosystems. The Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau is preparing a working document based on Annex I to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Strategic Framework for the list of Wetlands of International Importance and STRP paper on Wetlands Inventory. The working paper was tabled as document SC26-25 at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, held in Gland from 3 to 7 December 2001. The Standing Committee considered the recommendations contained in the paper and incorporated some of them in the decisions of the meeting. <sup>3/</sup> . The document is undergoing a peer review and the final version will be submitted to SBSTTA at its eighth meeting.

***C. Review of methodologies for assessment of biological diversity (as pertaining to inland water ecosystems)***

19. Section C of the programme of work contains guidance to Parties to apply suitable methodologies for assessment of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. The Executive Secretary has reviewed the second national reports to analyse available information on assessment and status of inland water biological diversity. Question 315 in the reporting format for the second national report, which relates to the status of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and ongoing assessments, was answered by 60 Parties. Of those responding, 25 per cent indicate that their country is undertaking an assessment, 2 per cent have completed an assessment and 4 per cent have not started an assessment. Of the 60 responses, seven were from small island developing States. Five of them have indicated that an assessment is ongoing in their countries.

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<sup>3/</sup> See [http://www.ramsar.org/key\\_sc26\\_conf\\_rpt.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/key_sc26_conf_rpt.htm)

20. The Executive Secretary has also initiated work on the development of rapid assessment methods for biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. Progress is reported on in paragraphs 13-15 of the note by the Executive Secretary on progress on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12). A further progress report will be made to SBSTTA at its eighth meeting.

***D. The urgency of needed action on taxonomy***

21. In paragraph 12 of the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to take decisive action to advance the Global Taxonomy Initiative as detailed in decision III/10 and IV/1 D. Inland waters biological diversity is addressed under planned activity 11 in the proposed programme of work on GTI annexed to SBSTTA recommendation VI/6, which is to be taken up by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. The expected output of the activity is a series of guides to freshwater fish and invertebrates (including adult terrestrial forms where appropriate) as an input to ecosystem monitoring for river and lake health.

***E. Elaboration and refinement of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems***

22. In paragraphs 1 and 6 of decision V/2, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report on various ways and means to implement the programme of work and on obstacles in implementing some aspects of the work plan of SBSTTA before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties as part of the review of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems by the Subsidiary Body at its eighth meeting. The Conference of the Parties also requested SBSTTA to include in its review advice on the further elaboration and refinement of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, having due regard to the issues relating, *inter alia*, to water supply, land use and tenure, pollution, invasive alien species, the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, and environmental impact assessment.

23. In response, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau and Wetlands International, is organizing a liaison group meeting with the aim of:

(a) Developing a comprehensive picture of the status and trends of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, its uses and threats, and identify gaps in knowledge,

(b) Identifying obstacles in implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and

(c) Developing a proposal for the review and refinement of the programme of work taking into account options and priority actions for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems and promote implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level.

24. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for late May 2002 with financial support from the Netherlands through the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) and an agreement with Wetlands International.

**F. The report of the World Commission on Dams**

25. In decision V/2, the Conference of the Parties also requested SBSTTA to consider the recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Dams and, as appropriate, to recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting the introduction of suitable elements into the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

26. In its recommendation VI/3, SBSTTA noted that the Executive Secretary reviewed the report of the World Commission on Dams and recommended linkages between the recommendations of the Commission and the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems as contained in section III of the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject prepared for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/5/Add.1).

27. In paragraph 2 of the same recommendation, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to make the report of the World Commission on Dams (*Dams and Development: A New Framework for Decision-Making*) available to the Parties through the clearing-house mechanism so that they can use the scientific and technical tools of the report, as appropriate. It further recommended that the Conference of the Parties take note of the recommendations contained in the report of the World Commission on Dams in regard to the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

28. In response to that request, the Executive Secretary has made the report of the World Commission on Dams available to the Parties through the clearing-house mechanism <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/water/documents.asp>.

**III. MARINE AND COASTAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

29. The following section reviews progress made in each programme element of the marine and coastal programme of work enabled by decision IV/5. Institutional cooperation is also discussed in light of the decisions of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and recommendations of the sixth and seventh meetings of the SBSTTA.

**A. Programme element 1 - Integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM)**

30. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties endorsed further work on developing guidelines for coastal areas taking into account the ecosystem approach; and encouraged SBSTTA, with the assistance of the Executive Secretary, to continue work on ecosystem evaluation and assessment through, *inter alia*, guidelines on evaluation and indicators.

31. In this context, the Government of the Netherlands has produced and submitted to the Secretariat a document containing an analysis of integrated marine and coastal area management in relation to the objectives of the Convention. This analysis, together with several case-studies on IMCAM projects from different regions, will be made available at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an information document. The analysis is the first step in a set of planned activities to be undertaken by the Government of the Netherlands, in cooperation with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution from Land-based Activities and international agencies such as Wetlands International, with a aim of achieving improved integration of the Convention's objectives in IMCAM projects at the regional, national and local levels. Progress reports will be submitted to future

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SBSTTA meetings and the final report will be presented at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

32. With regard to assessment-related activities, the Executive Secretary is in the process of developing a memorandum of cooperation and an associated joint work programme with the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), which is taking steps to produce a comprehensive and integrated global assessment of international waters, including the ecological status and causes of environmental problems in 66 water areas in the world. The focus of the assessment is on the key issues and problems facing the aquatic environment in transboundary waters. Additional details regarding GIWA are provided in section II above, which discusses biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

33. The Executive Secretary is making progress in work related to the development of rapid assessment methods for marine and coastal biological diversity, in particular ecosystem evaluation and assessment, as requested by SBSTTA in recommendation VI/5. This progress is reported on in the progress report on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12).

34. In addition, the Executive Secretary is liaising with the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) with regard to two initiatives aimed at the development and application of indicators. These are: the Study Group on Coral Bleaching and Indicators of Related Effects, which has been organized to assess the condition of coral reefs using physiological techniques; and the ad hoc Study Group on Benthic Indicators, which aims to develop indicators of coastal benthic community change.

***B. Programme element 2 - Marine and coastal living resources***

35. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties delineated several issues relevant to the programme element on marine and coastal living resources for the attention of the Executive Secretary and SBSTTA, namely:

- (a) The integration of coral reefs into the programme element;
- (b) The gathering of information on approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by local and indigenous communities;
- (c) An analysis and advice on scientific, technical and technological matters related to the issue of marine and coastal genetic resources; and
- (d) Consideration and prioritization of a number of other issues: the use of unsustainable fishing practices, including the effects on marine and coastal biological diversity of the discard of by-catch; the lack of use of marine and coastal protected areas in the context of management of marine and coastal living resources; and the economic value of marine and coastal resources, including sea grasses, mangroves and other coastal ecosystems; as well as capacity-building for undertaking stock assessments and for economic evaluations.

*1. Coral reefs*

36. Regarding the integration of coral reefs into programme element 2, an operational objective 2.3 has been developed and endorsed in SBSTTA recommendation VI/2. The Executive Secretary also developed a specific work plan on coral bleaching and elements for a work plan on physical degradation and destruction. In recommendation VI/2, SBSTTA invited the Executive Secretary to facilitate the



implementation of these work plans, setting priorities as appropriate and in collaboration with relevant agencies and programmes. In addition, SBSTTA invited the Executive Secretary to develop further the work plan on physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs.

37. In response to recommendation VI/2, the Executive Secretary and the Coordinator of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) have started discussions aimed at close collaboration in implementation of the Convention's coral reef work programme, through, *inter alia*, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity becoming a co-sponsor of the GCRMN. Collaboration will focus on coral-reef monitoring and conservation, and reporting on the status of coral reefs, taking into account both scientific and socio-economic aspects of the problems of coral bleaching and physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs.

38. The Executive Secretary has also initiated dialogue with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the UNEP Coral Reef Unit, the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), IOC, the World Fish Centre (ICLARM) and other relevant institutions. Specific input to the coral reef work programme has been received from ICLARM and IOC, and collaboration will include the contribution of the IOC's Study Group on Coral Bleaching and Indicators of Related Effects to the implementation of the work programme. In addition, the Executive Secretary has been invited to participate in the International Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Partnership's Coral Reef theme. This activity will provide an opportunity to ensure that earth observing systems are utilized to meet the coral reef assessment and monitoring needs of the Parties to the Convention.

2. *Approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by local and indigenous communities*

39. The Executive Secretary has information available from Parties regarding: the uses of marine biodiversity by the Maori of New Zealand; traditional systems of community-based coastal resource management in Indonesia; traditional ecological knowledge of Inuit and Cree in the Hudson Bay region; traditional ecological knowledge about Beluga whales in the Chukchi and Northern Bering seas; and traditional knowledge in relation to the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas.

40. Because of the current paucity of available information, the Executive Secretary has sent on 17 November 2000 a specific request for information to existing indigenous organizations regarding approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by local and indigenous communities.

3. *Analyses and advice on scientific, technical and technological matters related to marine and coastal genetic resources*

41. The Executive Secretary is currently finalizing a study of the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources on the deep sea-bed, as requested in decision II/10. The study is being undertaken in consultation with the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and the International Seabed Authority, and will be presented for consideration at the eighth meeting of SBSTTA.

4. *Consideration and prioritization of issues listed in paragraph 13 of decision V/3*

42. In order to appropriately consider and prioritize these issues it is necessary to take into account the ongoing activities of other relevant bodies addressing them. As these issues will be considered by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting, and considering that the discussion of several of these issues is currently taking place within other forums (e.g., the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Ocean Affairs, FAO, and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas), it would be premature to propose a prioritization of these issues at this time.

**C. *Programme element 3 - Marine and coastal protected areas***

43. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties approved the terms of reference and the duration of work specified for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, as contained in annex II to SBSTTA recommendation V/14.

44. The first meeting of the Expert Group took place in Leigh, New Zealand, from 22 to 26 October 2001, with financial support from the Governments of New Zealand, the United States of America, and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

45. The Group comprised experts from 15 countries: Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Indonesia, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand, Philippines, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States of America. Two other invited countries (Australia and Croatia) were unable to attend. In addition, observers from the IUCN World Congress on Protected Areas, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and the United States funding agency participated in the meeting. The Executive Secretary also invited the following international organizations to take part in the meeting as observers: the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, FAO, the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the secretariats of selected UNEP regional seas programmes. These organizations were unable to attend.

46. The desk study (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MCPA/1/2) prepared by the Executive Secretary, in line with activity (c) of operational objective 3.1 of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (decision IV/5, annex) was used as a basis of group discussions. The members have identified a general framework for consideration of the issue and a number of inter-sessional work areas. They established a process for undertaking this work. The expert group will be using a range of mechanisms to ensure wide input into the work. In particular, a broad informal advisory group is being established, to operate as a listserv. This group is already providing information on some key questions related to research and monitoring needs.

47. Based on the inter-sessional work, the group will identify key areas for future research, including potential pilot projects, and provide other outputs in accordance with its terms of reference. These issues will be deliberated further during the second meeting. The group will finalize its work, including the written text, during the second meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be held from 20 to 24 May 2002 in New Zealand.

48. The Secretariat also participated in the expert workshop on "Marine Protected Areas on the High Seas – Scientific Requirements and Legal Aspects", which was held on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from

27 February and 4 March 2001. This workshop brought together scientific and legal experts to formulate recommendations on the protection of particularly vulnerable high seas species and ecosystems such as seamounts, cold water coral communities, hydrothermal vents and their communities, deep sea fish, seabirds, cetaceans and unique scientific reference areas.

***D. Programme element 4 – Mariculture***

49. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mariculture is tentatively scheduled to take place in Rome from 1 to 5 July 2002. The meeting will be organized in collaboration with FAO. The terms of reference for this group were approved in decision V/3.

***E. Programme element 5 - Alien species and genotypes***

50. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision V/3, requested the Executive Secretary to make use of existing information, expertise and best practices on alien species in the marine environment in the implementation of the work programme on the cross-cutting issue of invasive alien species under decision IV/1 C.

51. The Executive Secretary has begun gathering information, data and case-studies on the subject and disseminating that information through the clearing-house mechanism. Case-studies and information on invasive alien species, including those in the marine and coastal environment, are available at <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/alien/case-studies.asp>. These case-studies have been provided by the Parties, in response to a request sent in June 2000 to all national focal points to the Convention, and through national reports; by the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP); and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through its GloBallast programme. Case-studies of coral-reef non-indigenous and invasive species were also presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium in October 2000.

52. IMO is also undertaking activities on ballast-water treatment research and development, with the intent of addressing ballast water as a vector of invasive alien species. Currently, resolution A.868(20) adopted by its General Assembly attempts to harmonize existing voluntary requirements on ballast-water procedures and minimize the impact of ballast-water discharge. The development of a single, global ballast-water control system that will apply internationally may facilitate progress by the General Assembly towards the adoption of a mandatory legal instrument on the treatment and processing of ballast water.

53. With regard to operational objective 5.3 of programme element 5 on the establishment of an “incident list” on introductions of alien species and genotypes through the national reporting process or any other appropriate means, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre has been compiling a database of invasive species. It contains nearly 1,000 cases across all taxonomic groups, and is global in its coverage, though major sources of data have biased coverage towards the Mediterranean, Baltic and Australia. Sources of data have been varied, and include peer-reviewed literature, discussion groups, Internet articles or stories taken from the popular press.

***F. Programme element 6 – General***

54. The Executive Secretary has initiated an analysis of the first and second national reports and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in order to assess the degree of national-level

implementation of the Jakarta Mandate. This analysis will be presented to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an information document.

### **G. Institutional cooperation**

55. In its decision V/3, the Conference of the Parties, *inter alia*, requested the Executive Secretary to further strengthen cooperation with global organizations and stressed coordination with regional bodies. It further requested the Executive Secretary to coordinate with the secretariats of regional seas conventions and action plans with a view to exploring the possibility of further collaboration. In this regard, the Executive Secretary has undertaken several activities including:

(a) The Executive Secretary transmitted to the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its sixth meeting, in November 2000, the view expressed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that there is significant evidence that climate change is a primary cause of the recent and severe extensive coral bleaching, and that this evidence is sufficient to warrant remedial measures being taken in line with the precautionary approach. In this regard, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have initiated dialogue to explore the integration of biological-diversity concerns into the Kyoto Protocol and possible joint actions in implementing the programme of work on coral bleaching. Additionally, progress made in implementation of the pilot assessment on biological diversity and climate change is reported on in the progress report by the Executive Secretary on cross-cutting issues (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/12);

(b) As noted in paragraph 13 above, a memorandum of understanding between the Convention Secretariat and Wetlands International was finalized and signed by both parties in September 2000. In addition, a second joint work programme with the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention is now in progress and includes several activities relating to marine and coastal biological diversity (see paras. 5-6 above);

(c) With a view to coordinating activities aimed at the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21 within the United Nations system, the Convention Secretariat continues to be involved in the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC-SOCA) and collaborative efforts with SOCA member organizations. The Secretariat has joined other members of SOCA as a core contributor to the United Nations Atlas of the Oceans. The Atlas is a Web-based, interactive information system database on the science and sustainable use of oceans, and will serve as an important tool for policy-makers, scientists and students. Written texts and selected documents prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention have been provided for inclusion in the Atlas on topics related to marine and coastal biological diversity, and in particular habitat threats, marine and coastal protected areas, invasive alien species and coral reefs;

(d) The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) share common interests with respect to the sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources and the prevention of physical degradation and destruction of habitats. For this reason, the Secretariat and the GPA Coordination Office have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to ensure harmonization at the global, regional and national levels and to facilitate joint implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity and the GPA category on physical alterations and destruction of habitats. A consultative meeting

on cooperation among the secretariats of the GPA, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the regional seas conventions and action plans was convened in November 2000;

(e) The Secretariat is cooperating with the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) to work together on biological diversity issues in marine and coastal areas. Currently, this cooperation is focused in two areas: the integration of biological diversity considerations into the methodology protocols of the GIWA; and the sharing of information on assessment evaluation;

(f) The Secretariat, together with the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan, hosted a Joint Consultation Meeting on the Harmonization of the Implementation of the Specially Protected Areas Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The meeting was held on 20 and 21 April 2001, in Valencia, Spain. The joint meeting was convened within the framework of the memorandum of cooperation, signed in May 2000, between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The Government of Spain hosted the meeting. The meeting promoted integration and consistency in the implementation of the Specially Protected Areas Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity (in particular the Jakarta Mandate) in the Mediterranean region, at the national and regional levels, and identified practical ways to achieve these objectives;

(g) Additionally, the Secretariat participated in the third and fourth global meetings of regional seas conventions and action plans, held in November of 2000 and 2001, respectively. One of the objectives of these meetings was to strengthen the linkages between the regional seas conventions and action plans and global environmental conventions and related agreements;

(h) The Secretariat participated in the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem held in October 2001. The Conference was organized by the Government of Iceland and FAO, and was co-sponsored by the Government of Norway. The aims of the Conference were to gather and review the best available knowledge on marine ecosystem issues; to identify means by which ecosystem considerations can be included in capture fisheries management; and to identify future challenges and relevant strategies;

(i) The Secretariat participated as an observer at the International Expert Consultation on Aquatic Animal Diversity Information and Communication System organized by FAO and the World Fisheries Trust in Rome in November 2000. The convening of the Expert Consultation is in response to the global need for improving availability and communication of information on aquatic diversity, especially at the genetic level, for use in fisheries, aquaculture and conservation of aquatic genetic resources in ecosystems and gene banks.

#### **IV. AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

##### **A. Introduction**

56. In its decision V/5, the Conference of the Parties adopted a programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and made a number of requests to the Executive Secretary and other organizations in particular FAO. The Executive Secretary prepared a progress report on these activities (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9) for submission to the seventh meeting of SBSTTA, and FAO submitted a proposal for a plan of action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9/Add.1). SBSTTA considered these documents and formulated

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recommendation VII/7, on agricultural biodiversity, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

57. In addition, in paragraph 10 of decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report on the impact of trade liberalization on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity in consultation with relevant bodies, such as the World Trade Organization.

58. In its recommendation VI/6, on the Global Taxonomy Initiative, SBSTTA noted, in planned activity 12 of the programme of work contained in the annex to the recommendation, that within the agricultural biodiversity work programme, specific taxonomy-related activities are envisaged in the areas of pollinators; soil and other below-ground biodiversity, to support agricultural production systems, especially in nutrient cycling; and natural enemies of pests and diseases.

## ***B. Implementation of the elements of the programme of work***

### *1. General aspects*

59. In order to supplement the progress report presented to SBSTTA, the Executive Secretary is carrying out an analysis of the second national reports as they relate to agricultural biodiversity in the framework of the Convention, including development of the International Pollinators Initiative. The document will provide a preliminary analysis of the responses to questions 329 to 358 in the second national reports received by 31 December 2001. The reports are available through the Convention clearing-house mechanism at <http://intranet.biodiv.org/world/reports.asp>.

60. In paragraph 3 (f) of recommendation VII/7, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a simple and straightforward format for a thematic report on agricultural biodiversity, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau. The Executive Secretary is preparing a format proposal that will be submitted to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties under item 24 of the provisional agenda (Strategic plan, national reporting and operations of the Convention).

### *2. Programme element 1 – Assessments*

61. Progress made on activities related to programme element 1 in response to decision V/5 on agricultural biodiversity was reported in the progress report submitted to SBSTTA. In particular, in response also to decision V/7, on designing national level monitoring programmes and indicators, a key set of standard questions and a menu of potential indicators of agricultural biodiversity that may be used by Parties at their national level were developed and are reported on in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/12.

### *3. Programme element 2 – Adaptive management*

62. To complement the information supplied in the progress report prepared for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA, the following information documents were also produced:

(a) “On-farm management of crop genetic diversity” by International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/7);

(b) “Soil biodiversity and sustainable agriculture” by FAO (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/10);

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(c) “Lessons learned from case-studies on animal genetic resources” by FAO (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/12); and

(d) “The first report on the state of the world’s animal genetic resources for food and agriculture” by FAO (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/13).

63. The United Nations University, IPGRI and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have organized a Symposium on Managing Biodiversity in Agricultural Ecosystem, in Montreal from 8 to 10 November 2001. Participants shared experience on how farmers manage their resources so as to sustain and enhance them in order to develop practices and systems for sustainable management of biodiversity. A compilation of 124 abstracts presented during the Symposium is being finalized for publication by the United Nations University and will be made available through the Convention clearing-house mechanism. Background information and reports are available on <http://www.unu.edu/env/plec/cbd/bio-mtg.html> and <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/sd/mbae/>

#### *4. Programme element 3 – Capacity-building*

64. A report on progress made on activities related to programme element 3 is contained in the above-mentioned progress report submitted to SBSTTA.

#### *5. Programme element 4 - Mainstreaming*

65. Progress made to support the development of national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and to promote their mainstreaming and integration in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes was reported on in the above-mentioned progress report submitted to SBSTTA. Considering that only four additional national reports have been received since the preparation of the progress report, the provisional results presented are still valid.

### ***C. Implementation of the cross-cutting issues within the programme of work and of other matters arising from decision III/11, IV/6 and V/5***

#### *1. Genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs)*

66. In response to decision V/5 paragraph 20, the Executive Secretary invited FAO, in close collaboration with the UNESCO, UNEP and other members of the Ecosystem Conservation Group, and other competent organizations and research bodies, to further study the potential implications of genetic use restriction technologies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity. The study prepared by FAO is available on the World Wide Web. <sup>4/</sup>

67. In addition, in response to paragraph 29 of decision V/5, the Executive Secretary is organizing an informal consultation to assess the potential impacts of the application of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) on local and indigenous communities and on Farmers’ Rights, in the light of the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (see para. 72 below). The meeting is planned to be held in Montreal, on 3 February 2002. The results will be reported to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention, to be held in Montreal from 4 to 8 February 2002.

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<sup>4/</sup> At <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPS/pgr/itwg/docsp1.htm>.

## 2. *Trade liberalization*

68. The Secretariat prepared a draft document and invited the international community at large, Parties and international organizations including the World Trade Organization (WTO) to provide comments on the overall balance and soundness of the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects covered by the document and to obtain possible additional elements, which should be included in the documentation. Revised document will be available as an information document at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## 3. *International Pollinators Initiative*

69. In its decision VII/7, SBSTTA recommended for adoption by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties a plan of action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9/Add.1, annex II).

70. The Africa Pollinators Initiative (API) is organizing a workshop on pollination biology case-studies in Africa, to be held in Nairobi from 11 to 15 February 2002.

## 4. *Animal genetic resources*

71. Progress made on activities related to animal genetic resources as a contribution to the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, as adopted by decision V/5 are reported in the progress report on agricultural biodiversity submitted to SBSTTA at its seventh meeting.

## 5. *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

72. On 3 November 2001, the FAO Conference adopted the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as a legally binding instrument. The text of the Treaty is available on the Internet. <sup>5/</sup>

# V. **BIODIVERSITY OF DRY AND SUB-HUMID LANDS**

73. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, as contained in annex I to decision V/23, which consists of two parts:

- (a) Assessments; and
- (b) Targeted actions in response to identified needs.

74. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary the following:

(a) Review the programme of work and identify expected outcomes, further activities to achieve these outcomes, potential actors, and timetables for action and follow-up, in close collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (decision V/23, para. 6);

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<sup>5/</sup> At <ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/waicent/pub/cgrfa8/iu/ITPGRe.pdf>.



- (b) Finalize the joint work programme with UNCCD (para 8);
- (c) Seek inputs and collaborate with countries with sub-humid lands, and with other bodies relevant to sub-humid lands (para. 8);
- (d) Update the roster of experts on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands in close collaboration with UNCCD (para. 9); and
- (e) Disseminate relevant information on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands through various means, including the development in the clearing-house mechanism of a database on dry and sub-humid lands (para. 10).

75. The Conference of the Parties also requested SBSTTA to assess periodically the status and trends of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and make recommendations on the further prioritization and refinement of the programme of work based on the review by the Executive Secretary.

76. To assist SBSTTA, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-Humid Lands with a well-defined mandate (para. 7).

77. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA considered a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/4). The progress report contained information on the outcome of a liaison group meeting jointly organized by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification from 30 April to 2 May 2001, in Bonn, Germany, to identify priority areas and related possible projects for integrated implementation of the two conventions in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The liaison group included representatives from organizations and other bodies relevant for dry and sub-humid lands and representatives from countries with sub-humid lands. As a result of the meeting of the liaison group, a joint work programme consisting of ten common priority activities on assessments, targeted actions and joint reporting was agreed upon.

78. The Executive Secretary updates the roster of experts regularly and is exploring with the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification ways to share experts from the rosters of experts maintained under the two conventions.

79. At the seventh meeting of SBSTTA, the Executive Secretary launched the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO), which contains sections on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. The publication is being widely distributed.

80. At its seventh meeting, SBSTTA adopted recommendation VII/3, on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, in which it emphasized the importance of synergy between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In this context, the secretariats of the three conventions held a liaison group meeting in December 2001 in Washington to identify and promote synergies between the three Conventions. As a result, they agreed to organize a joint workshop to foster synergies between the three conventions prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

## VI. OTHER ACTIVITIES

81. The Executive Secretary is developing a joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The joint work plan covers various thematic and cross-cutting issues. The joint work plan is particularly relevant to the programmes of work on inland waters and marine and coastal biological diversity.

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